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# The Friday Letter

Vol. 5 No. 50

December 23, 1985

## Season's Greetings 1985

'85  
Happy  
Holidays  
from the  
Staff of the  
Friday Letter  
Office of the  
Administrator

Office of Governmental  
Affairs and Public  
Information Office of  
Analysis & Evaluation  
Administrative Review  
Division Financial  
Management Program  
Information Division

Budget Division Accounting  
Division Management Civil Rights  
& Equal Employment Division --  
Administrative Services Division  
Personnel Division Information  
Resources Management Division  
Family Nutrition Programs Program  
Planning Development and Support  
Division Program Accountability  
Division Special Nutrition Programs  
Supplemental Food Programs Division  
Food Distribution Division Nutrition  
and Technical Services Division Child  
Nutrition Division Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Office Midwest Regional Office Mountain Plains  
Regional Office Northeast Regional Office Southeast --  
Regional Office Southwest Regional Office Western Regional  
Office Field Offices Computer System Support Center

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## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GS-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, apply directly to the Regional Office. For details on requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

Job Title	Series	Grade	Closing Date	Vacancy Number	Organizational Unit
Clerk Typist*	GS-322	2/3/4	Open	85-69	FNS
Clerk*	GW-303	1/2	Open	85-81	FNS
Program Analyst (EXTENDED)	GS-345	12/13	12/30/85	85-96	OAE
Communication Specialist	GS-393	11/12	12/30/85	85-109	IRMD
Labor Relations Specialist	GS-233	13	12/30/85	85-110	PED
Management Analyst**	GM-343	13	12/30/85	85-111	IRMD
Secretary Typing***	GS-318	4/5	01/06/86	85-112	CND
Secretary Typing***	GS-318	4/5	01/06/86	85-113	CND
Investigator	GS-1810	5/7	01/13/86	85-114	PAD/NJ
Secretary Typing*** (2 positions)	GS-318	4/5	01/06/86	85-115	CND
Secretary Typing	GS-318	5	01/06/86	85-H-39	HNIS
Home Economist	GS-493	11/12/13	01/06/86	85-H-40	HNIS

\*Local Commuting Area

\*\*FNS Nationwide

\*\*\*FNS Headquarters

OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation

IRMD - Information Resources Management Division

PED - Personnel Division

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service

CND - Child Nutrition Division

PAD - Program Accountability Division, Burlington, New Jersey, Trenton Area Office



# Life in the Fast Lane

## Field Office Duties Provide Variety

Headquarter's FNP staffer **Katrina Ward** recently completed a 120-day detail working in the Richmond, Virginia, Field Office with OIC **Joe Justice** and his staff. A native Richmonder, with family still in the area, Ward had an opportunity to learn first hand about the activities of a field office as well as spend time with her family and old acquaintances.

During her detail, Ward was primarily involved with Food Stamp Program activities such as retailer authorization, monitoring, and conducting compliance visits. She also reviewed other programs with field office staff assistance.

"If you don't like to drive," FNP staffer **Katrina Ward** says, "field office work is not for you."



The amount of travel involved to keep on top of the various monitoring activities was significant. Working primarily in the Danville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke areas, Ward traveled as much as 300 miles a day, two to three times a week. "If you don't like to drive," Ward commented, "field office work is not for you."

Ward enjoyed getting out of the office during her field assignment and the opportunity to deal directly with the public. One thing she learned was the significance of field work in maintaining the integrity of FNS programs.

-Story by Carol Savage, MARO Public Affairs Staff  
Photo by Paul Rowen, OGAPI

## On the Hill

The first session of the 99th Congress ended this week with a flurry of legislative action directly affecting food assistance programs.

The Food Security Act of 1985 (H.R. 2100)--commonly referred to as the Farm Bill--was passed by the House on December 18 by a vote of 325 yeas to 96 nays. Later that afternoon, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 55 to 38.

The Secretary of Agriculture has recommended that the President sign the measure. The major provisions regarding the food programs will be reported next week.

Appropriations were another big stumbling block for the Congress this year. After a series of continuing resolutions, a bill (H.J.Res. 465) was finally passed on December 19, which will keep this Department, among others, with funds through September 30, 1986.

On December 12, President Reagan signed the mandatory balanced budget legislation (~~Gramm-Rudman-Hollings~~) which sets specific deficit targets for the Federal government until the deficit reaches zero in 1991. The targets for each year would be as follows:

FY 1986—	\$171.9 billion
FY 1987—	144.0 billion
FY 1988—	108.0 billion
FY 1989—	72.0 billion
FY 1990—	36.0 billion
FY 1991—	Zero

In August of each year, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) are to submit to the General Accounting Office (GAO) separate estimates of the likely budget deficits for the fiscal year. GAO would then prepare a report to the President based on the findings of OMB and CBO. A Presidential order based on the GAO report would then be issued.

-Continued page 4

## **Mountain Plains**

### **Observes Handicap Week**

MPRO staffers observed National Employ the Handicap Week with special events on October 22-24. The programs were the work of Handicap Program Manager **Pam Fields** and committee members: **Bob Homrich, Marian Flesner, Pierre Jorgensen, Deanne Bengston, Debbie Visser, and Evelyn Villareal.**

On Tuesday, October 22, representatives of the Denver Handicapped Organized Womens' Group gave a presentation on attitudes, media images, and terminology. That afternoon, the Rocky Mountain Lutheran Church Handicapped Awareness Group discussed hearing impairment and gave a simulated hearing test and mini sign language class.

The following day, MPRO staff were treated to a film presentation entitled "They Call Me Names."

Concluding the 3-day Handicap Observance Week, MPRO employees were treated to a special "Snack Attack" featuring favorite desserts.

-story by Joanne Widner,  
photos by Craig Forman,  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff



MPRO staffers observed Employ the Handicapped Week through mini classes in sign language and discussions on hearing impairment.



As **Pam Fields**, MPRO Handicap Program Coordinator looks on, **Sharon Holden** of the Rocky Mountain Lutheran Church Handicapped Awareness Group leads a discussion on hearing impairment.

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### **-On the Hill Continued**

Exempt from all mandatory cuts are such programs as: Food Stamps, Child Nutrition, Women, Infants and Children, Social Security, Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Compensation, Veterans Pensions, interest on the national debt, and contracts made earlier in the year.

The Congress will return for the 2nd session on January 21, 1986.

The President has yet to sign legislation (H.R. 1534) to make permanent the "flexitime" program, that allows government employees to stagger their hours or to work four 10-hour days. The Senate passed the measure on December 11; the House passed it on May 20. The current legislation expires December 31.

The Congress will reconvene for the 2nd session on January 21.

-Story by Bill Tlucek, OGAPI



# South of the Border Nutrition

**Anneva Hackley** of Program Information Division recently attended the International Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Congress in Auckland, New Zealand. On December 12, she shared her experiences during a Brown Bag Lunch sponsored by the Federal Women's Program (FWP).

The BPW Club is an organization of business and professional women working together to provide support, share experiences, and encourage young women in their careers. There are BPW clubs throughout the country that meet on a monthly basis. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the advancement of women. Hackley is a member of the Upper Montgomery County Club in Maryland which helped her meet trip expenses. The following is a summary of her comments presented to the FWP in Headquarters.

## **Back from New Zealand**

My trip to New Zealand for the International Business and Professional Women's Congress was quite an experience! Needless to say, it was a tremendous feeling to meet so many women, all of whom were in some kind of business or profession, from so many different countries. There was a high level of sharing, spiritually, emotionally, and professionally, unparalleled, except in a setting of this kind.

As a member of the International Projects Committee since 1983, I have been involved in evaluating, monitoring, and collecting data on various improvement projects proposed and/or in operation by various worldwide BPW organizations. At the Congress, I chaired the Projects Workshop. There were also workshops on: Education and Culture; Finance; Health; Employment Conditions; Membership; United Nations; Agriculture; Legislation; and Publications.

I found the country itself, to be as beautiful as the postcards. Not surprising is the fact that New Zealand is one of the world's largest exporters

## **Education Networking**

Representatives of Southeast Region's Nutrition and Technical Services Staff and three South Carolina agencies met recently at Clemson University. They discussed ways to share resources and to work together on nutrition education projects for the Child Care and Food Stamp Programs. The three agencies involved were the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Agricultural Extension Service, and the Department of Social Services.



**South Carolina Food Stamp Director Leon Love** (standing) and Nutrition Education Coordinator **Terry Schumaker** discuss plans for "Make Your Food Dollars Count" materials with (seated) State WIC Program staffer **Jenny Kirksey**, NIS nutritionist **Betty Wills** and South Carolina EFNEP Coordinator **Ruby Cox**.

-Story and Photo by SERO  
Public Affairs Staff

of meat, dairy products, and wool. However, somewhat surprising was the fact that there are over 70 million sheep and only 3.5 million people living in this variable two-island country. The North Island has the most temperate climate of the two, as well as the largest portion of the population. The South Island has more mountainous terrain (complete with snow caps), and the cooler climate. The New Zealand people are largely of European heritage; with a

## **MARO Hosts WIC Vendors**

Recently, WIC vendor managers representing eight of nine states in the Mid-Atlantic region met in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to discuss program activities.



**MARO WIC staffer Jean Landry** leads a discussion on high risk vendor identification techniques.

Informal "brainstorming" sessions and small work groups provided much interaction among Federal and State representatives. The meeting focused on identification of high risk vendors, and appropriate follow-up activities. Attendees shared reports, procedures, practices and state policies regarding vendor monitoring.

MARO WIC staffers **Mike Buckley** and **Jean Landry** outlined the need for identifying high risk vendors and the group discussed appropriate indicators to consider.

Compliance buying was reviewed by **Joe McLin**, FNS Compliance Branch Investigator. Key points emphasized by McLin included preparation, performance, and documentation of compliance buys.

The recently printed WIC Compliance Handbook, which covers activities as well as selection of stores, items purchased and disposal of items after the buy, was shared with attendees.

Vendor monitoring is one of three major areas in the WIC Focus on Management Initiative. Additional meetings of this kind are planned for in the future as part of this initiative.



Participants formed work groups to simulate an exercise ranking vendors based on certain characteristics from highest to lowest risk for vendor monitoring.



Compliance Branch Investigator **Joe McLin** outlines key points when making compliance buys.

-Story by Carol Savage,  
Photos by Alan Crane,  
MARO Staff

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### **-New Zealand Continued**

smaller percentage of polynesians, the majority of whom are Maori origin. The Maoris preceded the Europeans by several hundred years. All of the people were extremely friendly.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to attend this Congress and experience some of what New Zealand has to offer.

(Anneva Hackley is a Program Analyst with the Financial Management Program Information Division.)